

Spiritual Life Retreat: *Walk the Line* Monologue

Sometimes it's hard to walk the line. Sometimes it feels like the road is long, and difficult, and you're losing your way. Sometimes it feels like the path is foggy or skewed, and you can't see your destination in the distance. Sometimes other people pull you off the path you know you are supposed to take, and it's hard, really hard to get back on track. Sometimes trusting in the Lord still feels like falling.

This path is filled with joy and with pain, with laughter and with tears. No one ever claimed that walking the line would be an easy task, but we've learned this weekend that even when the path isn't easy, it can always be good.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to bring you hope and a future."

Jeremiah was bringing a prophetic message to Israelites who were being held captive in Babylon. They had been imprisoned for decades, and felt abandoned. God used Jeremiah to tell the Israelites to be patient, and that God would be with them, and would hear their prayers. Maybe God is saying the same thing to you now.

God knows what is in store for your life, even if you don't. Even if you can't see or even imagine what God has planned for you, God knows. Even if you have already left the line you were walking, and don't know how to return to that path, God still has plans for your life. Even if you're tired of walking, and long to stand still, God still knows. God knows your heart, and God is leading you down an incredible path that you probably can't even imagine.

Even when you feel like you are walking the line, and still nothing is right, God's plans are greater than the ones that you have for yourself. God says specifically that he plans to bring you hope and a future. The Israelites must have been so grateful for this hope, having been imprisoned for so long. Even though they were captive in a strange land, God's plans were so much bigger than what they could see in front of them. God knew that the Israelites were lost, and hurting, and felt forsaken, but God could also see the amazing future ahead of them, and would bring their path out of the wilderness if they would only be patient.

The amazing thing is, God can and will do the same for you. No matter how lost you feel, God is leading you in a very specific direction. No matter the state you are in, it is never too late to walk the line. There is always hope in the path set before us, and always redemption in Christ. And as we trust in the Lord, and perhaps falter, and learn to lean on God's understanding, we always have the great opportunity to walk the line.

Written by Amanda Mae Arnold for Spiritual Life Retreats 2009 "Walk the Line"